

MYSTERIOUS OFFICIAL TO PREVENT DIVORCE

(Continued from page thirteen.)

about him, the better it is for the success of his efforts to justify his existence.

OVERLOOKS MANY.

Despite his modesty, however, the king's proctor has been coming in for a lot of criticism before the divorce commission. A few days ago no less a personage than the lord chief justice of England declared that he didn't believe the king's proctor caught a tenth of the cases of fraud in the divorce court and, he added, he didn't think anybody else could do any better. On the whole he thought the country was wasting \$10,000 every year that it retained this official and that the judges would probably be able to catch just as much fraud unaided. The day before the lord chief justice said this Freke Palmer, the London solicitor who handles more divorce cases than all his colleagues put together, declared that the king's proctor never prevented a divorce but that he did interfere often with poor litigants. There was no charge of graft in this. Mr. Palmer simply meant that a rich man could cover up his tracks better than a poor man and had money to reopen the case if the king's proctor did interfere, while a poor man had probably spent all he could save or borrow in obtaining the original decree. This, of course, called forth an indignant denial. Earl Desart, who was the king's proctor before Mr. Mallor, insisted on appearing and telling the commission that he made no distinction between rich and poor.

It is considered not unlikely that the commission when it does report in

unfaithfulness, but either cruelty or desertion as well. This condition gave rise to a strange situation a few months ago when Sir John Bigham, then president of the divorce court, was forced by public outcry to resign because he had the courage to defend this state of affairs and express the opinion that a marital rape was not so culpable in a man as in a woman. He was succeeded by Sir Samuel Evans, who can be trusted to say nothing indiscreet.

The cost of divorce is the most crying evil. The simplest kind of an undefended suit costs about \$500 and uncommonly few divorces cost less than \$500. If a man has \$150 to spare in having himself declared a pauper he can sue in "in forma pauperis" without further expense. One reason for these heavy charges is that every divorce case must be tried in the divorce court in London, and litigants in the north of England for instance must bring their witnesses hundreds of miles and keep them in London while the case is on. The suggested remedy is that power should be given to the judges of the county courts to try divorce cases.

It is a curious coincidence that while the present law which is a great improvement on its predecessor owes its existence to the sarcasm of a great judge, the appointment of the present royal commission has a similar origin. Lord Gorell, then Sir Gorell Barnes, was president of the divorce court before Sir John Bigham. He was giving judgment in a case where the wife sued for divorce from a husband who had been notoriously unfaithful. He had, however, not been cruel to her, nor had he deserted her.

DIFFERENT IN LONDON.

"The petition in this case must be dismissed," said the judge, "for the wife has only proved misconduct and that is not sufficient to enable her to obtain a decree of divorce; and it will not be any satisfaction to her to know that if her case had arisen and her suit could have been brought in Scot-



SIR EDWARD GREY.

Secretary of State of the British Empire.

ed for one day, which period has already been exceeded as you have been in custody since the beginning of the session.

"POOR MAN'S DIVORCE."

I am afraid, however, that in the words of Mr. Justice Maule the law still knows no distinction between the rich and the poor in the sense that it makes it no cheaper or easier for a poor man to obtain a divorce. Last year there were 700 divorces granted but there were 7,000 police court separations. The police court separation is known as "the poor man's divorce" but it does not entitle the parties to marry again and I am afraid a large proportion of the people who have been separated have followed the example of Mr. Justice Maule's laborer without taking the trouble of running the risk of going through a second marriage ceremony. It is estimated that there are now in England about 80,000 men and women who have been separated from their partners by police court orders and it is a pretty safe bet that they are not all living celibate lives. There are 60,000 more who are tied to partners who have been certified as incurably insane, and I have seen an estimate that there are about 200,000 people who would be divorced if the process were as cheap and the law as liberal as in the least liberal of the American states.

JOHN S. STEELE.

CAMORRA LEADERS TO BE TRIED FOR MURDER

(Continued on page thirteen.)

Of this weakness Capozzuto took advantage. Where others sneered he encouraged, where others insulted he soothed, but still the secret, always on his lips, was never spoken for want of courage. Undeterred, the detective crept nearer and nearer, took up his quarters as a boarder in the house of Abatemaggio, catching a word here and there, making love to Abatemaggio's sister, who was as corrupt as himself, until one day, in a burst of confidence, his quarry told what he knew.

The accused are now awaiting trial. They are Erricone, who is accused of being the instigator of the crime; Genaro de Marinis, a kind of understudy to Erricone; Gaetano Donadio, the actual murderer, 30 others of less importance, and Abatemaggio himself. Over 500 witnesses have been heard during the preliminary investigations, the evidence being contained in 14 folio volumes.

PROTECTED BY POLICE.

One of the side issues of the trial will be the proof of the freely expressed, and in many cases authenticated, accusations of the public that some of the police of Naples were protectors of the camorra. In several instances the police of the society. When the first and abortive trial for the Cuccolo murders was going on Signor Ferri, a powerful Socialist deputy, said in the chamber, producing proofs of his assertions, that the real chief of police of Naples was a noted Camorrista, Antonio Parlati, afterwards arrested and condemned. The deputy maintained that this man was the head of three international gangs, divided into squads, according to the special criminal work they were engaged in, either burglary, pocket-picking or extortion, assaults, etc. When the squad of pickpockets who worked on the tram cars appeared the police prudently left them undisturbed and went away. Once it happened that a policeman remained on a car while the pickpockets were at work so that their chief promptly went up to him and forced him to leave.

A police sergeant named Giannacchi pointed out to a Camorrista the pocket in which a foreigner had put his money and thus contributed to its being stolen. Parlati had the police in his pay. He regularly gave Police Commissioner Ippolito \$10 a week, Sergeant Giannacchi, \$5; another sergeant \$20

a month and so on to almost every man. He also gave presents to their wives and families.

IN HAND AND GLOVE.

Parlati was the spy of the police. He was supposed to help in the detection of crimes, and in order to show that not all crimes committed in Naples remained unpunished he helped the police to arrest innocent persons under suspicious circumstances, and furnished false evidence for their conviction. The police got a share of the proceeds of the burglaries committed by the Camorristi, and Signor Ferri mentioned specific cases in which the booty fell to the share of the Neapolitan police. In concluding the Socialist deputy regretted that the work so successfully initiated by the carabinieri had been stopped by order of the government, and that the members of the police force had remained unpunished while the Camorra is as flourishing now as it was 40 years ago.

The late Marion Crawford, speaking of the Camorra said: "It is difficult

price which is to be asked and the part which the Camorra will have in the gains. Thus the citizen is obliged to pay a continual series of illegal taxes of which the police are aware but with which they do not interfere.

The Upper is much more terrible and to this those held for the Cuccolo murders belong. The members have very rare contact with the Lower, as they go for much higher game. Its chief activity is fraud on a large scale. Its hand is felt in the municipality, the province, the prefecture, the police, the law courts, even in parliament. It is surveillance brought to perfection. Two men cannot gamble in a wine shop or two boys in prison that there is not a Camorrista to claim his share of the gains, and so swift is the revenge for any resistance that no one dreams of not obeying.

PERFECT ORGANIZATION.

The organization, from the point of view of the association is perfect. The members are divided in corps, each composed of 34 Camorristi and 48 recruits, every one of the former having two of the latter at his disposal, one to assist him and the other to watch over him in any enterprise in which they are engaged; outside these there are honorary members who have paid for the protection of the association. The acting officers are only two, the head and the cashier. The head has supreme control and the giant share of the booty. The cashier receives daily the gains, passes them on to the head who divides them. Any one who refuses to pay up "the dues" is very roughly handled, and a traitor is always murdered.

There has been a tendency in some quarters to find a connection between the Camorra of Naples and the American Black Hand, but this does not exist. The Camorra seems to flourish and work only on his home soil, while the Black Handers are almost entirely Sicilian and therefore affiliated with the Mafia society which is in many respects not so evil as the Camorra or even the "Black Hand."

CONSTANCE HARRIMAN.

THE FIRST CLOCK.

Since celebrations are the order of the day, why not observe the sixtieth anniversary of the introduction of clocks? It was, we are told, in 1509 that the first clock known to the world was placed in the tower of San Eustorgio in Milan. The greatest astonishment and admiration were manifested by crowds who came to see the timepiece. In 1544 a clock was installed in the palace of the nobles at Padua. This was a wonder of mechanism indeed, for besides indicating the hours it showed the course of the sun, the revolutions of the planets, the various phases of the moon, the months and the fates of the year.

The period of the evolution from the clock to the watch was 71 years, not so very long all things considered, and the record of the first watch is 1580. A half-century later an alarm clock made its appearance. This, we are told, was looked upon by the people of



EMPRESS OF RUSSIA.

to get anything like an authoritative account of what the Camorra really is. The term has come to be used in Italy as a designation for a band of men who have organized to obtain illicit control over lawful or unlawful trade, or to commit crime with impunity for their own advancement. As an institution it is peculiar to Naples, where it originated and whence it has extended over the whole neighboring province. It is a powerful organization, and in the past has exerted a wide influence over the whole social and political life of Neapolitan Italy. It is so old, as things of this kind run in Italy, that there is no positive evidence of the date of its origin. Even the etymology of the name is shrouded in mystery. I am inclined to believe, however, that it was started in the middle of the sixteenth century, when Naples was under the rule of the Spanish viceroys. Now the Camorra is simply organized thievery and assassination."

TWO GREAT DIVISIONS.

The Camorra has two great divisions, the so-called Upper and Lower, the latter surrounds everyone in Naples, even without their being aware of it. The ordinary public services are subject to it; it is silent and usually it does not use violence; an imperceptible gesture, an accent, establishes the

AEROPLANES FOR HONEYMOONS

(Continued on page thirteen.)

his or her use. If he desires a performance, he will have him cost what it will. The program is always kept a profound secret until the very last minute and his guests are all agog with excitement as to what is going to happen. But he is especially in his element when entertaining children. He has given afternoon dances for the small people which have been a sight! To see him lead out the tiniest tot in the room as partner in the Lancers is a amusing as it is interesting. The only other man as universally popular with smart children in London is the bishop, who resides in the Lancers palace.

Mr. Martin must have found hundreds of invitations awaiting him on his arrival. I hear, however, he means to make but a short stay in London. He will run over to the continent before going north to Balmuccia, where he invariably spends several weeks of the shooting season and is the life and soul of the house parties.

Many other well known Americans who did not turn up for the season of this year will be arriving shortly for the shooting. According to report Scotland will be more popular than ever this year with American millionaires.

LADY MARY.

A FEW SHORT WEEKS

Mr. J. S. Bartell, Edwardsville, Ill., writes: "A few months ago my kidneys became congested. I had severe backache and pain across the kidneys and hips. Foley's Kidney Pills promptly cured my backache and corrected the action of my kidneys. This was brought about after my using them for only a few short weeks and I can cheerfully recommend them."—Schramm-Johnson Drugs.

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